



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D.C. 20535

5
MR ERNIE LAZAR
POST OFFICE BOX 423434
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94142 3434

January 28, 2002

✓ X

Confidence Undergoes

Subject: BUFILE 105-70219 (FIRST 500 PAGES)

FOIPA No. 0932224-000

Dear Requester:

The enclosed documents were reviewed under the Freedom of Information/Privacy Acts (FOIPA), Title 5, United States Code, Section 552/552a. Deletions have been made to protect information which is exempt from disclosure, with the appropriate exemptions noted on the page next to the excision. In addition, a deleted page information sheet was inserted in the file to indicate where pages were withheld entirely. The exemptions used to withhold information are marked below and explained on the enclosed Form OPCA-16a:

Section 552

- (b)(1)
- (b)(2)
- (b)(3) _____

- (b)(4)
- (b)(5)
- (b)(6)

Section 552a

- (b)(7)(A)
- (b)(7)(B)
- (b)(7)(C)
- (b)(7)(D)
- (b)(7)(E)
- (b)(7)(F)
- (b)(8)
- (b)(9)

408 page(s) were reviewed and 394 page(s) are being released.

Document(s) were located which originated with, or contained information concerning other Government agency(ies) [OGA]. This information has been:

- referred to the OGA for review and direct response to you.
- referred to the OGA for consultation. The FBI will correspond with you regarding this information when the consultation is finished.

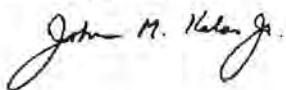
You have the right to appeal any denials in this release. Appeals should be directed in writing to the Co-Director, Office of Information and Privacy, U.S. Department of Justice, Flag Building, Suite 570, Washington, D.C. 20530-0001 within sixty days from receipt of this letter. The envelope and the letter should be clearly marked "Freedom of Information Appeal" or "Information Appeal." Please cite the FOIPA number assigned to your request so that it may be easily identified.

The enclosed material is from the main investigative file(s) in which the subject(s) of your request was the focus of the investigation. Our search located additional references, in files relating to other individuals, or matters, which may or may not be about your subject(s). Our experience has shown,

when ident, references usually contain information similar to the information processed in the main file(s). Because of our significant backlog, we have given priority to processing only the main investigative file(s). If you want the references, you must submit a separate request for them in writing, and they will be reviewed at a later date, as time and resources permit.

See additional information which follows.

Sincerely yours,



John M. Kelso Jr
Section Chief,
Freedom of Information-
Privacy Acts Section
Office of Public and
Congressional Affairs.

Enclosure(s)



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
AND
PRIVACY ACTS

SUBJECT: BUFILE 105-70319



FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
FOIPA
DELETED PAGE INFORMATION SHEET

Serial Description ~ COVER SHEET

05/16/1958

Total Deleted Page(s) ~ 9

Page 7 ~ Duplicate, Duplicate

Page 84 ~ b7D, b7D

Page 102 ~ b7D, b7D

Page 103 ~ b7D, b7D

Page 104 ~ b7D, b7D

Page 105 ~ b7D, b7D

Page 106 ~ b7D, b7D

Page 107 ~ b7D, b7D

Page 173 ~ b2, b2, b7C, b7C, b7D, b7D

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X Deleted Page(s) X
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X for this Page X
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

*In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.*

Charlotte, North Carolina
May 16, 1958

RE: CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND

An informant who has furnished reliable information in the past, has advised he was told that early in May 1958, Reverend JAMES COLE of Marion, South Carolina, leader in a Klan organization, made a statement that the "Confederate Underground" will have a closed meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, May 31, 1958. Nothing was learned by informant about exact time or where this alleged meeting is to be held.

COLE made the statement that the Confederate Underground is made up of organizations really out to fight integration, and that these are the organizations with power behind them.

Informant had no knowledge that COLE at this time made any statement about possible use of violence by this group.

This memorandum is loaned to you by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and neither it nor its contents should be disseminated outside the agency to which furnished.

105-70219 -1

ENCLOSURE

FBI

Date: 5-28-58

Transmit the following in _____

Via AIRTEL REGISTERED MAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)b
TO: DIRECTOR, FBI
FROM: SAC, CHARLOTTE (105-866)① CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND
IS - X

5-1

Remyairtel 5-16-58, and Buairtel 5-21-58, regarding
meeting captioned organization Little Rock, Ark., 5-31-58.On [redacted] protect identity [redacted] made available
report [redacted] received [redacted] from JOSEPH BRYANT, Grand
Kleagle, North Carolina Knights KKK, of which JAMES W. COLE
Grand Wizard. This report indicates one Dr. FIELDS of Louis-
ville, Ky., is holding big meeting of United White Party,
Little Rock, 5-31-58, and has invited COLE as speaker. Further,b7C
b7D

1 - Bureau (RM)
 2 - Little Rock (RM) (AMSD)
 2 - Louisville (RM)
 2 - Knoxville (RM)
 2 - Savannah (RM)
 4 - Charlotte (105-866)
 (105-683--UNITED WHITE PARTY)
 (105-495--KKKK)
 [redacted]

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b7C
b7D

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 10-1-93 BY SP7C/AM
401727

BDC: hks
(15)Approved: MW Sent 105-70219-3 M Per 105-70219-3

59 JUN 6 1958

1 REC-79
EX-101

Z MAY 29 1958

INTO
[redacted]

UNRECORDED COPY FILED 5/10/58 - 66233-1

b7C

CE 105-866

JAMES MILLIGAN, Grand Dragon of Va., North Carolina Knights KKK, presently residing Marion, S. C., was accompanying COLE to Little Rock. This indicates proposed meeting being sponsored by United White Party. CE informants not in position to attend meeting.



b7C

SAC, Louisville (105-286)

June 3, 1958

REC-8 105-70219-7
Director, FBICONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND
INTERNAL SECURITY - XRe CG airtels 5-16-58 and 5-28-58 and ureairtel
5-29-58.

CG airtel 5-16-58 reflected that Reverend James Cole had stated that a meeting of the "Confederate Underground" would be held at Little Rock, Arkansas, 5-31-58. CG airtel 5-28-58 reflected that Dr. Fields, presumably Edward R. Fields, of Louisville was making arrangements for a meeting of the United White Party at Little Rock on 5-31-58 and that Reverend Cole had been invited to act as guest speaker. Ureairtel reflects that Millard Grubbs and Edward R. Fields planned to hold a meeting near the end of May in Louisville, Kentucky.

CG should contact appropriate informants to determine if Reverend Cole went to Little Rock over the weekend of 5-31-58 or whether he remained in Marion, South Carolina.

Louisville should contact appropriate sources to determine whether Fields and Grubbs were in Louisville on 5-31-58 or, if not, whether there is any indication that they went to Little Rock.

Little Rock should advise Bureau immediately whether any information has been received indicating that the "Confederate Underground" or the "United White Party" held a meeting at Little Rock on 5-31-58.

2 - Charlotte

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

2 - Little Rock

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

DATE 4/2/01 BY SP2 ALMKD

Tolson _____
 Nichols _____
 Boardman _____
 Belmont _____
 Mohr _____
 Parsons _____
 Rosen _____
 Tamm _____
 Trotter _____
 Nease _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Holloman _____
 Gandy _____

1 - Bufile (United White Party)

JGK:fjb
(9)

MAIL ROOM *JMK*

COMM-FBI

MAILED 10

3-1
3-1
662-105-662
COPY FILED IN

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE JACKSONVILLE	OFFICE OF ORIGIN MIAMI	DATE 6/27/58	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 5/12; 6/4, 5, 11, 20, 23, 27/58
TITLE OF CASE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN aka., Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan		REPORT MADE BY [Redacted]	TYPED BY b7C gjm
		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - KLAN	

SYNOPSIS: BILL HENDRIX, Grand Dragon of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, announced plans to form a group to be known as the Confederate Army. Confidential informants state this group was to be a Klan organization by another name and that to their knowledge it never came into being. Informants do not know of existence in Florida of the Confederate Underground or the "Confederate Union." HARLEY H. CHILDSON, a Klan member formerly of Knoxville, Tennessee, not known by Klan informants in Northern Florida area. JAY "BUD" MUELLER, Klan member at Mt. Dora, Florida, and former associate of BILL HENDRIX, was in Mt. Dora on 4/27/58. Reverend ALLEN C. SHULER, former associate of BILL HENDRIX, claims he preached near Atlanta, Georgia, on evening of 4/27/58.

RUC

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 12/01 BY SP/ALM/SP

35-C570-198
100-3570-198
ORIGINAL FILE IN

APPROVED [Signature]	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE [Signature]	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
NOTES MADE: ① - Bureau (100-356570) (RM) 1 - Atlanta (Info) (RM) 1 - Birmingham (Info) (RM) 1 - Charlotte (Info) (RM) 1 - Knoxville (105-194) (Info) (RM) 3 - Miami (100-11349) (RM) 1 - Mobile (Info) (RM) 1 - Savannah (Info) (RM) 2 - Jacksonville (105-21)		105-70219- NOT RECORDED 175 NOV 13 1958

63 NOV 10 1958

JK 105-21

DETAILS: AT JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised on [redacted] that several months previously there had been a split between BILL HENDRIX, then Grand Dragon of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and EDGAR WAYBRIGHT, who was known to informant as the Imperial Wizard of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. As a result of the split, HENDRIX continued as Grand Dragon of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, while WAYBRIGHT continued with a group of former Klansmen under the name of "The Minutemen" in Jacksonville, Florida.

According to [redacted] during this same time HENDRIX had great difficulty in keeping together the klaverns which had been affiliated with the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

According to [redacted] during one of the visits to Jacksonville by BILL HENDRIX, HENDRIX announced that because of criticism which was being directed at Ku Klux Klan organizations, he was setting up an organization to be known as the Confederate Army, membership in which would be almost identical with the requirements for membership in the Klan but which, because of the different name, should attract thousands of members.

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According to informant, membership cards would be used, the group would be trained as a military order, and would be available to law enforcement agencies in case of need.

Informant further stated that this grandiose plan of HENDRIX never actually materialized except for the publicity given it by HENDRIX. Informant was of the opinion that HENDRIX actually may [redacted]

It was the informant's definite recollection that [redacted]

JK 105-21

[redacted] also advised that HENDRIX continued as leader of this Klan organization for a number of months and at one time announced that he had resigned as Grand Dragon but confidentially advised his Klansmen that C. L. PARKER was serving as Grand Dragon only in name.

On November 13, 1953, [redacted] stated that on the previous evening at a meeting of the Jacksonville Klavern of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, information was received that BILL HENDRIX had made a release which had appeared in "News Week" to the effect that he was organizing a Klan organization for Negroes, Jews, and Catholics. Informant stated that as a result of such stands by HENDRIX, the Jacksonville Klavern disassociated itself from HENDRIX' Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and that soon thereafter practically all of the other klaverns then affiliated with HENDRIX did likewise.

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that to his knowledge the Confederate Army is not now active in the State of Florida and he had never heard of an organization in Florida known as the "Confederate Underground" or the "Confederate Union."

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[redacted] stated that he has not seen HENDRIX in the last [redacted] does not know whether HENDRIX has made any visits to Jacksonville during that time.

[redacted] expressed the view that [redacted]

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that Reverend ALLEN C. SHULER, who had been very active in various Klan organizations in Jacksonville and elsewhere for many years, had not participated in any Klan activities during the past two or three years. [redacted] stated that SHULER was active in the Citizens Council of Duval County for a number of months but that this activity decreased considerably a number of months previously when Mrs. SHULER became seriously ill.

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that he had endeavored to locate Reverend SHULER but that he had not been able to reach him during the previous several days.

Confidential Informant [redacted]

that Reverend ALLEN C. SHULER, who had been active in the Citizens Council of Duval County for a number of months in 1957, became very inactive due to the serious illness of his wife and only began attending meetings again some two or three weeks previously.

This informant stated that SHULER was very anti-Jewish and that he believed SHULER was capable of [redacted]

[redacted] is not acquainted with BILL HENDRIX.

Confidential Informant [redacted] advised on [redacted] that BILL HENDRIX had been the Grand Dragon of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan until probably 1953 when the organization apparently was dissolved. This informant recalled that HENDRIX announced publicly his intention of forming a group known as the Confederate Army but it was informant's understanding that this was merely a Klan organization by a different name.

[redacted] stated that to his knowledge the Confederate Army did not come into actual existence in the Jacksonville area at any time.

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Confidential Informant [redacted] advised on [redacted] that BILL HENDRIX, the leader of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan at one time, had once talked about forming a Confederate Army. This informant stated that he did not feel this group ever came into actual existence. [redacted] said that HENDRIX for some reason unknown made a proposal to form a Klan organization for Negroes and that, as a result, he "lost face" with the Klansmen in Northern Florida who disassociated themselves from him.

Confidential Informant [redacted] confirmed the above information on [redacted]

Other confidential informants in the Tallahassee, Daytona Beach, Gainesville, Crestview, Perry, and Old Town, Florida, areas advised that to their knowledge the Confederate Army was not in existence in those areas.

JK 105-21

On [redacted] Confidential Informant [redacted] advised [redacted]

All of the above-mentioned confidential informants when interviewed did not know HARLEY E. CHILDSON and had no information indicating that he had been in the Northern Florida area on March 16, 1958, or April 28, 1958, when bombings of Jewish synagogues occurred in Miami and Jacksonville, Florida, respectively.

Other inquiries to establish the presence of CHILDSON in Northern Florida during these same dates were negative.

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During the time BILL HENDRIX was active as Grand Dragon of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, he was known to have been associated with Reverend ALLEN C. SHULER and JAY "BUD" HUETT, of Mt. Dora, Florida. Informants indicated the possibility that SHULER and HUETT were affiliated with HENDRIX in his efforts to establish the Confederate Army.

Confidential informants have advised recently that JAY "BUD" HUETT, a member of the Mt. Dora, Florida, Police Department, has been very active in the Mt. Dora, Florida, klavern of the Florida Ku Klux Klan and recently served as Grand Dragon of the Central Florida Realm of this Klan organization.

A Special Agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on June 23, 1958, while conducting an investigation at the Mt. Dora, Florida, Police Department on another matter, determined that JAY "BUD" HUETT, who is employed as [redacted] man by that department, worked during the 4:00 P.M. to 12:00 midnight shift on April 27, 1958.

[redacted] advised on [redacted] that he was present at a conversation with [redacted]

[redacted] [redacted] INFORMANT does not believe SHULER was involved in the bombings.

JK 105-21

The August 23, 1949, issue of the Tampa, Florida, "Morning Tribune" newspaper contained an article reflecting an interview with BILL HENDRIX, Imperial Emperor of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, relative to the formation of this new Klan. According to the article, HENDRIX said the organization was an outgrowth of the Klan set up in 1915 by WILLIAM JOSEPH SIMMONS. HENDRIX stated the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan was started under the name Original Southern Klans, Incorporated, in June 1948, a branch of which was formed in Tallahassee, Florida, in January 1949.

Original Southern Klans, Incorporated, has been designated by the Attorney General pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

On January 29, 1950, HENDRIX publicly announced in a news release to the Associated Press that the purpose of the Southern Knights of the Ku Klux Klan was to combat the growth of communism in the United States and to oppose groups advocating hatred toward any person or group.

On [redacted] Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that HENDRIX informed he was dropping "Southern" from the name of the Klan and that it would be known as the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

On [redacted] Confidential Informant [redacted] advised that HENDRIX announced that the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan was being disbanded. According to HENDRIX, some of the Klan groups of this organization will unite under the name "National Christian Church." However, on [redacted] [redacted] advised HENDRIX did not disband this organization which is still active.

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- RUC -

- 6 -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Director, FBI (105-70219)
FROM : *W.H.S.* SAC, ATLANTA (105-843)
SUBJECT: CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND, Aka.
IS - X

DATE: 9/26/58

Attention:

Domestic Intelligence Division
 Investigative Division

Name: JESSE B. STONER
Address: P. O. Box 48, Atlanta, Georgia
Type of Mail: 1st Class
Type of Cover: Return addresses

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 11/01/01 BY SP/AM/KS

Period Covered: 30 days from authorization

Purpose of Cover: To determine whether alleged members of Confederate Underground are in contact with J. B. STONER.

Justification: (Comment on necessity, desirability, productivity, possibility of embarrassment to Bureau.
If necessary continue on extra page.)

STONER lives in Dublin, Georgia, but maintains mailing address in Atlanta. He is reportedly leader of the Confederate Underground. Atlanta has no information indicating a possibility of embarrassment to the Bureau resulting from this mail cover.

2 - Bureau (105-70219)
enc:abb
(2)

MAILED 2
OCT 1 1958
COMM-FBI

REC-83 05-70219-47

NOT RECORDED
14 SEP 29 1958

If authorized:
 FD-115 will be directed to Postmaster (name)
(address)

59 OCT 14 1958

FD-115a will be directed to Postal Inspector (name)
(address)

APPROVED
Date 10-1-58

Mail Room JGK

J. L. PATE
New Post Office Building
Atlanta, Georgia

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ATLANTA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN ATLANTA	DATE 10/9/58	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 10/7, 8, 9/58
TITLE OF CASE ✓ CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND, Aka., Confederate Union, Confederate Center of Information		REPORT MADE BY [Redacted]	TYPED BY SBB
		CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - X	

SYNOPSIS:

Informants have reported information learned from HARLEY HANSON CHILDSOHN of St. Petersburg, Florida, to the effect that he, CHILDSOHN, is head of the Confederate Underground, which is reportedly organized along military lines. CHILDSOHN claims to have organization in some thirty states, but informant believes this is gross exaggeration. CHILDSOHN has claimed that he participated in bombings in Jacksonville, Fla., and Nashville, Tennessee.

- 2 -

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/2/01 BY SP2 AMW

b7C

COPIES TO:

6 Bureau (105-70219) RM
1 - ONI, Sixth District, Charleston, S. C. (RM)
1 - G-2, Fort McPherson, Georgia (RM)
1 - OSI, Robins Air Force Base, Warner Robins, Ga. (RM)
2 - Birmingham (105-491) RM
2 - Knoxville (105-227) RM
2 - Memphis (105-358) RM

APPROVED <i>[Signature]</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW
COPIES MADE <i>[Signature]</i>		105-70219-54 REC-60
2 - Savannah (105-374) RM 2 - Jacksonville (RM) 2 - Miami (105-1544) RM 2 - Charlotte (105-866) RM 2 - Little Rock (105-225) RM 2 - Albany (RM) 2 - Buffalo (RM) 2 - New York (RM) 3 - Atlanta (105-843)		EX-135
1 - a letter from [Signature] AGENCY: [Signature] Robt & White - a-6b REQ. REC'D: 10-12-58 DATE FORM: 10-12-58 HOW FORM: R/C BY: [Signature]		11 OCT 13 1958 <i>[Handwritten notes and signatures over the bottom of the form]</i>

PROPERTY OF FBI - This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.

✓ 10 66 OCT 31 1958

AT 105-843

DETAILS:

PURPOSE AND ORGANIZATIONAL SETUP

Atlanta [] advised on [] that he had received information which he believed came from HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON to the effect that the Confederate Underground is headed by a Five-Star General and has the following organizational setup:

One Four-Star General to each state.

Four Three-Star Generals to each state.

Twelve Two-Star Generals to each state.

Forty-eight One-Star Generals to each state.

Under each One-Star General, four Full Colonels.

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Under each Full Colonel, Six Lieutenant Colonels.

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Under each Lieutenant Colonel, four Captains.

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Under each Captain, four 1st Lieutenants.

Under each 1st Lieutenant, four 2nd Lieutenants.

Under each 2nd Lieutenant, four Warrant Officers.

There are no ranks in the Confederate Underground lower than a Warrant Officer.

On [] Atlanta [] advised that it is understanding that HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON is the Five-Star General of the Confederate Underground.

Atlanta [] advised on [] that he had received the following information from HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON of 333 - 43rd Avenue, North, St. Petersburg, Florida:

AT 105-843

The avowed purpose of the Confederate Underground is to preserve the Constitution of the United States: to protect America against any foreign encroachment, internal or external. In the event that America is overcome by an enemy, the Confederate Underground will rain death and destruction on the enemy regardless of the personal cost. Treason will be punishable by death and no one will stand in the way. The Confederate Underground will defend America at any cost.

National Anthem: "America"

Battle Song: "Dixie"

Uniforms:	Hat - same as U. S. Navy Officer, except emblem.	b2
	Tie - Black	b7C
	Shirt - Black	b7D
	Pants - Black, 1½ in. red stripe on outer seam.	
	Belt - White, with gold buckle.	
	Coat - White	
	Shoes - Black	
	Socks - White	
Grade insignias	Weapon - .45 semi-automatic	
Hat insignias	Same as U. S. Army	
Sleeve insignias	Crossed rifles, same as U. S. Infantry.	
	Black Christian cross on left sleeve on shoulder.	

ACTIVITIES

Atlanta [redacted] advised on [redacted] that he overheard HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON make the statement that [redacted]

AT 105-843

Atlanta [redacted] advised on [redacted] that he overheard HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON state that he was the head of the Confederate Underground

In regard to the bombings in Nashville, Tennessee, CHILDSON

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[redacted] furnished the Atlanta Office of the FBI the following information:

At 11:50 PM, September 24, 1958, one of the nurses on duty at the Jewish Home for the Aged received a telephone call from an unidentified man in which the caller stated, "You people had better stop that eating with Negroes or that place will be bombed by Saturday." When questioned as to his identity, the caller stated, "I'm from the New York Confederate Underground and my number is 1827."

[redacted] stated that members of both the Negro and white races reside at the home and use a common dining hall. He expressed the opinion that the call may have been made by one of the construction workers, who are currently remodeling the home.

- P -

- 4 -

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: October 16, 1958

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

1 - Mr. Rosen
 1 - Mr. Belmont
 1 - Mr. Baumgardner
 1 - [redacted]
 1 - Mr. O'Connor

*Tolson
 Boardman
 Belmont
 Mohr
 Nease
 Parsons
 Quinn
 Tamm
 Trotter
 W.C. Sullivan
 Tele. Room
 Holloman
 Gandy*

SUBJECT: CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND
INTERNAL SECURITY - X
Miscellaneous

In answer to Mr. Tolson's inquiry as to whether there is a Confederate Underground other than references made to such an organization following bombings of various institutions in the South, these are the facts.

In [redacted] the Seaboard White Citizens Council, Washington, D. C., was reliably reported to have said in [redacted] that the bombing of the Jewish synagogue in Nashville, Tennessee, was not done by the Ku Klux Klan nor White Citizens Councils but was the work of "an underground" which was at that time being organized in Tennessee.

In [redacted] Charlotte Informant [redacted] advised that he was told that in the same month Rev. James Cole of Marion, South Carolina, a leader of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in that state, made a statement that the Confederate Underground would have a closed meeting in Little Rock, Arkansas, on May 31, 1958. [redacted] stated that the term "Confederate Underground" is just a "block name" for the organizations that are fighting integration, which organizations are considered one when they are fighting together. Despite our checks no information was developed indicating this May 31, 1958, meeting was held.

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In [redacted] an informant of the [redacted] stated that Jesse B. Stoner, a former Klan member and the one-time head of the Christian Anti-Jewish Party (a violently anti-Semitic and anti-Negro organization) stated that he was the head of the Confederate Underground which at that time consisted of from six to eight members. Stoner said the headquarters of the group was in Mapleton, Georgia. Stoner inferred that this organization was involved in bombings in Miami, Birmingham and Nashville.

In [redacted] Harley E. Childson, long time Klan member, indicated to [redacted] that the Confederate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (CKKK) is the parent organization of the Confederate Underground. Childson invited the informant to join the CKKK. Sensing an opportunity to penetrate the Confederate Underground, we authorized [redacted] to join the CKKK and to

105-70219
JOC:fk

(6)

EX 105

REC. 96

105-70219-66

NOV 4 1958

Memo for Mr. Belmont
Re: CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND
105-70219

further his relationship with Childson. To date Miami has been unable to verify the existence of the CUKK and the informant has been unsuccessful in his efforts to join the CUKK or recontact Childson.

Instructions concerning investigation of this group were issued to the field on April 1, 1958, May 21, 1958, and July 25, 1958. Two reports from Atlanta (office of origin) have been received and disseminated to the Department and intelligence agencies of the Armed Forces. The reports elaborate on what information we already have at our disposal but the investigation has failed to develop concrete information concerning the specific existence of a Confederate Underground.

ACTION:

On the basis of available information, it is impossible to determine what the Confederate Underground is, whether it is a loosely-knit group united by one purpose or whether it has active organizational status. We consider it imperative to find out and the field is conducting active investigation to pin this down. You will be kept advised of pertinent developments.

Dr. C
✓
We must give this top
priority.
KD

Mr. Tolson
Mr. Belmont
Mr. Mohr
Mr. Nease
Mr. Parsons
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tamm
Mr. Trotter
Mr. W. M. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Mr. Holloman
Miss Gandy

file ✓ *11*

The Confederate Underground?

FBI Probing Anti-Semitic Bombings in Southland

By DICKSON PRESTON
Scripps-Howard Newspapers

"This is the Confederate Underground," the voice growled into the telephone in Nashville.

"We have just blown up that integration center and our next target is Judge Miller. We are going to shoot him down in the street!"

That grim message, repeated in essence at least four times in recent months after bombs wrecked Jewish buildings in the South, has sent the Federal Bureau of Investigation into all-out action.

The Question.

In Atlanta, in Nashville, in Jacksonville and Miami, FBI agents are working with local police to find the answer to this question:

Is there really a "Confederate Underground" which specializes in terror by dynamite? Or, is it just an invention of crackpots who repeated words they've read in the papers?

As of now, J. Edgar Hoover's G-men aren't prepared to give an opinion. But, off-the-record comments by Washington officials make one thing clear—Washington means to stamp out any interstate conspiracy.

Findings Secret.

The FBI's findings, of course, are secret. Enough evidence has gotten into the public record, however, to establish these facts:

Of the 67 bombings or attempted bombings since Jan. 1, 1957, 59 were directed

against Negroes or whites regarded as "friends" of integration. Eight—including one yesterday in Peoria, Ill.—were aimed at Jewish buildings.

Of the eight in which anti-Semitism appeared to be a factor, four were accompanied by some variation of the "Confederate Underground" phone call.

These four bombings, in Atlanta, Nashville, Jacksonville and Miami, also followed a pattern in other ways. They appeared to be the work of skilled operators; they occurred at night; they involved dynamite. All were set off when the buildings were unoccupied.

None of the others, so far as is known, completely fit this pattern. This includes the bombing at Peoria, which appears to be a home-grown job.

Essentially Anti-Semitic.

For these reasons informed sources in Washington think the "Confederate Underground"—if there is one—is an anti-Semitic rather than a pro-segregation group.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith theorizes that some lunatic-fringe Southerners are using segregation sentiment in an effort to stir up anti-Semitism.

League officials say they have evidence that about 100 fanatics in several states have a loosely knit organization which could be the basis for the "underground." They say they have turned this information over to the FBI.

CLIPPING FROM THE *b7C*

N.Y. *NY WORLD TELEGRAPH & SUN*
EDITION *NIGHT*

DATED *15 OCT 1958*

PAGE *1*

FORWARDED BY NY DIVISION

RE: RACIAL SITUATIONS

BUFILE-

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/2/01 BY SP/AMW

105-70219-A
NOV 14 1958

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53 NOV 14 1958 *ENT*

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-245) DATE: 10/24/58
FROM : SAC, LOS ANGELES (105-6075)
SUBJECT: BOMBINGS AND ATTEMPTED BOMBINGS
IN SOUTHERN COMMUNITIES
RACIAL MATTERS
ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/2/01 BY SP204

Rebuairtel to Albany and all other continental offices dated 10/16/58.

In compliance with rebuairtel, the following is submitted. Extra copies are being furnished the Bureau for its files on the organizations mentioned in rebuairtel, and the two additional local (to Los Angeles) organizations mentioned in this letter. Information copies are also being directed to the pertinent offices of origin of the organizations concerned.

A review of Los Angeles files discloses no information of local origin concerning the following organizations that concerns their background or could be of possible aid in investigation of them that has not already been furnished the Bureau and the offices concerned:

192 Bureau (62-245) (AIR MAIL)
 2 - Atlanta (Info.) (100-4976 - CAJP)
 2 - Chicago (Info.) (_____ - CU)
 2 - Chicago (Info.) (_____ - CPC)
 2 - Chicago (Info.) (_____ - NCP)
 2 - Indianapolis (Info.) (_____ - NSRP)
 2 - Indianapolis (Info.) (61-5 - SSLA)
 1 - Newark (Info.) (_____ - CEA)
 3 - New York (Info.) (105-6071 - ACAWC)
 3 - New York (Info.) (105-6112 - NRP)
 3 - New York (Info.) (_____ - NP)
 1 - St. Louis (Info.) (100-10834 - NCPA)
 1 - Washington Field (Info.) (100-33226 - WCCDC)
 5 - Los Angeles (105-6075)
 (1 - 100-44603) (AN)
 (1 - 100-7945) (CNC)
 (1 - 100-33703) (KAC)
 (1 - 105-666) (WTS)

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(36)

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LA 105-6075

<u>Organization</u>	<u>Bufile</u>	<u>Office of Origin</u>
American Committee for the Advancement of Western Culture	105-22853	New York
Christian Anti-Jewish Party	65-15743	Atlanta
Christian Educational Association	105-9621	Newark
Christian Patriots Crusade, aka	105-53447	Chicago
Confederate Underground	105-70219	Atlanta
National Citizens Protective Association	105-16510	St. Louis
National Renaissance Party	62-83296	New York
National States Rights Party	105-66233	Indianapolis
Nationalist Party, aka	105-33261	New York
Nationalist Conservative Party	105-39509	Chicago
Silver Shirt Legion of America	61-7587	Indianapolis
White Citizens Council of the District of Columbia, aka	100-423395	Washington Field

Los Angeles files likewise disclose no information concerning FREDERICK JOHN KASPER and JESSE B. STONER not known to the Bureau and the offices of origin.

It has, of course, been brought to this office's attention in the past few years that literature issued by certain of the above organizations, namely, the Christian Educational Association, the Christian Patriots Crusade, the National Citizens Protective Association, and the National Renaissance Party (most commonly the first mentioned), has been distributed, usually by unknown persons via mail and under circumstances indicating no effort to organize branches in the Los Angeles area.

The literature concerning the National Renaissance Party has been invariably small, poorly done, mimeographed leaflets discovered during the past year inserted between the pages of books in school and public libraries in the Los Angeles vicinity, alluding to no local address or activities but attempting to interest the reader in subscribing to the organization's "Bulletin."

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Of possible interest is a news article that appeared in the Los Angeles "Mirror News" dated January 18, 1955, which mentions that the National Renaissance Party had come to the attention of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, which had, in a report on "hate groups", stated one JAMES R. WHITE, billed as an "organizer" for the NRP in Los Angeles, had been a guest speaker at a meeting of the NRP in Yorkville, New York, on June 26, 1953; that WHITE had allegedly organized a fully uniformed group "in his city" and had distributed thousands of copies of the NRP's "Bulletin." The article suggested the House Committee had given WHITE "unduly high notice," adding that "whatever activities he may have engaged in for the NRP in the past now are pretty much discontinued," and that in any event WHITE had departed Los Angeles to attend the Hastings School of Law in San Francisco. In connection with this news item, it is interesting that none such mentioned activities on WHITE's part had previously come to this office's attention, and presumably were greatly exaggerated, if not total falsehoods.

The following is submitted for the Bureau's consideration in regard to the organizations mentioned in rebuairtel as existing in the Los Angeles area, along with two others which, file reviews show, fall in the category of "hate" mongers:

CHRISTIAN NATIONALIST CRUSADE, aka
(Bufile 62-43818)

The CNC continues to maintain its mailing headquarters in Glendale, California and is, along with its various "paper" auxiliaries, the media through which GERALD L. K. SMITH, aided by a staff of associates of long standing (Mrs. ELNA SMITH - his wife, RENATA LEGANT, OPAL TANNER WHITE, Rev. CHARLES F. ROBERTSON - his printer, Dr. WESLEY SWIFT, and BERTRAND COMPARET - his attorney), maintains the publication of racially biased propaganda and preserves his following through personal appearances at meetings held in Los Angeles and sometimes in the course of tours across the country.

SMITH and his organizations have been the subject of continuous investigation by the Bureau for many years until as recently as last year. He has not been found to advocate that his followers engage in violence of any kind, or that violence be involved in the solution of any of the problems he presents to his audiences and readers.

[redacted] who has maintained an active interest for years in SMITH (and the CNC) in view of his frequent

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[redacted] stated on [redacted] that SMITH and his associates, including the former California Klan leader, Rev. WESLEY SWIFT, have never committed themselves to a course of violence. He said that SMITH's organizations are not membership organizations but are only "paper" organizations, and thrive on the sale of literature, almost entirely of SMITH's own production, and the contributions from his audiences at meetings and others who approve the tenor of his literature and accede to his frequent appeals for funds. (His CNC, as a "national political committee" makes regular reports to Congress under the Federal Corrupt Practices Act, listing the names of those who contribute over \$100.)

He stated SMITH's activities are always open and aboveboard, and his character is such that were he to be approached by the authorities he would more than likely turn over the keys to his office, to the embarrassment of his interviewers. It is this openness, coupled with his unique oratorical and organizing abilities, and an excellent sense of discretion in relation to the legality of his movement, that has permitted him to endure as the pre-eminent public crusader of a "white Christian America." His continued success remains dependent on these considerations, and his being involved in any way with the illegal activities of violence, such as the bombings in the South, would be his downfall. In other words, he has too much to lose to involve himself in such activities.

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[redacted] said this conclusion likewise applies to his associates, including SWIFT, over whom SMITH exercises personal direction. Moreover, SWIFT is too intelligent a man to have not come to realize with the passing of time that the course most conducive to his own interests (if he ever thought otherwise) is one of avoiding similar involvement. [redacted] added that SMITH reportedly expressed his serious concern that his organization might unjustly be blamed in some way for the recent bombings in the South.

[redacted] Los Angeles

[redacted] Los Angeles, California, who has likewise maintained an active interest for years in SMITH's organizations, in concert with other [redacted] investigative organizations throughout the country, stated on October 20, 1958, that SMITH's primary interest is financial and that he is too intelligent to permit himself or his associates to bring about the ruin of his whole "racket" by involvement, direct or indirect, in violence such as the bombings in the South. He said he has not heard and does not believe that

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a serious possibility exists that SMITH or his associates have any relation to the bombings.

[redacted]

were able to furnish no information indicating that the above characterizations of SMITH and his organizations are not true. All the above sources stated that they have received no information indicating that anyone or any organization locally advocates the use of violence in racial matters, or that anyone is suspected of possible involvement in the recent bombings in the South.

"WILLIAMS' INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY"
(Bufile 105-10091)

Los Angeles files disclose ROBERT H. WILLIAMS has been engaged solely in the publication of his literature, and that there is no information that he has advocated violence in the solution of racial problems. He has, moreover, been interviewed by Special Agents on two or three occasions in the past and has always been cooperative.

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[redacted] California, who has been reliably cooperative with Agents of this Office in security matters on several occasions, stated on [redacted]

[redacted]

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[redacted] and [redacted] above) both confirmed the statements that WILLIAMS is not known to have advocated violence in his articles, or to have been more than a publisher of his own writings on communism and subversive influences from an anti-Semitic point of view.

AMERICAN NATIONALIST
(Bufile 105-22921);

KEEP AMERICA COMMITTEE
(Los Angeles file 100-33703)

The American Nationalist (AN), Post Office Box 301, Inglewood, California, is the name under which FRANK L. BRITTON [redacted] Hawthorne, publishes (on an irregular basis) the four-page "The American Nationalist" and miscellaneous anti-Semitic and anti-Negro leaflets, replete with lurid photographs which he mails locally and allegedly to addressees in the southern states. BRITTON and the AN have been the subject of previous investigation by this Office in 1953 and again in 1956. At those times it was learned that BRITTON operates alone and is engaged solely in the sale of his own literature, making frequent appeals for subscriptions to his literature and donations to continue his efforts.

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[redacted] California, stated on [redacted] that BRITTON's AN has been investigated by the Postal Inspectors on four or five different occasions, but has never been found to have misused the mails, having never advocated the use of violence in his literature. He said that BRITTON frequently visits the Post Office to deposit batches of his literature in the mails, destined to addressees locally and in the southern states. He added that the AN is not a membership organization, conducts no meetings, and is solely operated by BRITTON for the purpose of selling his literature and seeking donations, through these means "earning" a living for himself and his wife. He added that BRITTON is not the sort to get along with others and he has never sought the association of others in his AN.

The Keep America Committee (KAC), Box 3094, Terminal Annex, Los Angeles, California, is similarly a name behind which Mrs. HELEN W. COURTOIS, [redacted] Los Angeles, publishes literature, usually reprints of other "nationalist" literature. None of the various items that have come to this Office's attention advocates violence,

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seeks membership or mentions organized activity, but only indicates that the particular items can be ordered in batches at a price from the KAC.

[redacted] and [redacted] (above) both state that their organizations have been actively interested in BRITTON's AN and COURTOIS' KAC and have learned that the AN and KAC are not and have never sought to be membership organizations, hold no meetings and are operated solely by BRITTON and COURTOIS for the production of literature. They stated that neither is known to have advocated violence or to have been associated with anyone who has.

[redacted] added that COURTOIS is a woman in her later 50's or early 60's. They stated that it is not conceivable that either BRITTON or COURTOIS have any connection with the bombings in the South and that neither has the ability nor the funds to engage in any activities outside the state, except for the mailing of literature.

[redacted]
of the Los Angeles Sheriff's Office; Detective Captain [redacted] California Police Department, Detective Captain [redacted] California Police Department, and Detective Lieutenant [redacted] California, Police Department [redacted], were able to furnish no additional pertinent information concerning BRITTON and COURTOIS.

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GENERAL

All of the above-mentioned sources stated they have received no information indicating anyone or any organization locally advocates the use of violence in racial matters, or that anyone is suspected of involvement in the recent bombings in the South.

Contact with security informants and all other logical informants and sources has been unproductive but has served to alert them to the importance of immediately forwarding information concerning persons or organizations possibly relating to bombings in the South to this Office. Contact with them will be maintained on a continuing basis.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that no active investigation be undertaken in connection with the [redacted] Intelligence

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Summary" in view of its discontinuance almost one year ago, and WILLIAMS' disassociation from his past activities, being presently absorbed in his new business. It is also considered, being "one-man" operations of a nonmembership type engaged in issuing literature, investigations of BRITTON's American Nationalist and COURTOIS' Keep America Committee are not warranted and would be ineffective in achieving the Bureau's primary purpose in these investigations; consequently, no active investigation will be conducted of these three organizations, UACB.

With regard to SMITH's Christian Nationalist Crusade: From investigation conducted in the past (until 1957), the continuing review of literature emanating from the CNC and the continuing attention it receives from local sources, a presumptive pattern has been established indicating that SMITH and his associates are not of such a radical nature as to present a potential for violence, except, of course, insofar as deep-seated, racial ill-feeling is engendered in some readers of his literature. In investigating SMITH and his associates to ascertain whether the above-mentioned presumptive pattern does not apply equally to their activities when outside of California, it would seem necessary to establish a source among SMITH's inner staff which, it is believed, would constitute a grave risk of embarrassment to the Bureau, because it is apparent that the interests of each associate is the interest of all. Other investigative steps, it is believed, could hardly achieve the primary purpose for initiating investigation.

The Bureau is requested to advise whether it desires the risk be undertaken, nevertheless, or whether it is thought a direct approach to SMITH and/or any of his associates, and for that matter BRITTON, WILLIAMS and COURTOIS, for any information they may have heard in connection with the southern bombings, is not warranted. SMITH may, in the past, have ridiculed the idea of the FBI investigating him and his organization(s), but it is not recalled that he has been critical of the Director or the FBI.

This Office will, in addition, review its files to identify certain individuals who may have participated in Klan activities years ago to establish their present activities and to determine if they might properly be considered within the Bureau's program.

Mr. Tolson
 Mr. Bishop
 Mr. Mohr
 Mr. Nease
 Mr. Parsons
 Mr. Rosen
 Mr. Tamm
 Mr. Trotter
 Mr. W.C. Sullivan
 Tele. Room
 Mr. Holloman
 Miss Gandy

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'Confederate Underground' Boost Brings FBI Into Bombings

By DICKSON PRESTON

George Howard Staff Writer
 "This is the Confederate Underground," the voice growled into the telephone in Nashville, Tenn.

"We have just blown up that integration center and our next target is Judge Miller. We are going to shoot him down in the street!"

That grim message, repeated in essence at least four times in recent months after bombs wrecked Jewish buildings in the South, has sent the Federal Bureau of Investigation into all-out action.

In Atlanta, in Nashville, in Jacksonville and, Miami, Fla., FBI agents are working with local police to find the answer to their question:

Is there really a "Confederate Underground" which specializes in terror by dynamite? Or is it just an invention of ~~abolitionists~~ who repeat words they've read in the papers?

As of now, J. Edgar Hoover's G-men aren't prepared to give an opinion. There still is much evidence to be sifted, including a report from Atlanta that a bombing there Sunday was planned by an interstate group last May.

But off-the-record comments by Washington officials make one thing clear—

If there is an interstate conspiracy, the FBI means to stamp it out.

"They intend to get those bombings stopped," said a man who knows well the agency's inner workings. "And you can be sure they'll have enough manpower on hand to do the job."

Although technically the FBI's role is only to "assist" local police and look for evidence of Federal law violation, its agents actually have been taking a direct hand for months. The FBI's findings, of course,

are secret. Enough evidence has gotten into the public record, however, to establish these facts:

1—OF THE 67 BOMBINGS OR attempted bombings since Jan. 1, 1957, 58 were directed against Negroes or whites regarded as "friends" of integration. Eight—including one in Peoria, Ill., which is not in the South—were aimed at Jewish buildings.

2—OF THE EIGHT in which anti-semitism appeared to be a factor, four were accompanied by some variation of the "Confederate Underground" phone call.

3—THESE FOUR BOMBINGS in Atlanta, Nashville, Jacksonville and Miami, also followed a pattern in other ways. They appeared to be the work of skilled operators; they occurred at night; they involved dynamite. All were set off when the buildings were unoccupied.

4—NONE OF THE OTHERS, so far as is known, completely fit this pattern. This includes

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD
 Birmingham, Alabama
 10/16/58
 Final Edition

CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND,
 aka.
 IS - X.

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 133 DEC 1, 1958

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The bombing at Peoria, which appears to be a "home grown" job.

For these reasons informed sources in Washington think the "Confederate Underground" if there is one - is an anti-semitic rather than a pro-segregation group.

The anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith which has conducted its own investigation, theorizes that some "lunatic fringe" Southerners are using segregation sentiment in an effort to stir up anti-semitism.

League officials say they have evidence that about 100 "fanatics" in several states have a loosely-knit organization which could be the basis for the "underground." They say ~~they~~ have turned this information over to the FBI.

Most of the other bombings appear to be "local" jobs. Nine appear to be Negro section of

Clinton, Tenn., where ~~recent~~ follow the start of desegregation two years ago and where the high school was blown up 10 days ago. Others were aimed at Negro families moving into white or mixed neighborhoods, at outspoken Negro advocates of desegregation and at Negro churches and schools.

In only one of the 87 cases - an attempted bombing at Charlotte, N. C. - has a conviction been obtained. There five men were convicted of unlawful possession of dynamite although no actual explosion was ~~set~~.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

REPORTING OFFICE ATLANTA	OFFICE OF ORIGIN ATLANTA	DATE 9/18/58	INVESTIGATIVE PERIOD 9/12, 15, 16, 17/58
TITLE OF CASE CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND, aka Confederate Union, Confederate Center of Information		REPORTER/MAILED BY [Redacted]	TYPED BY AAB
		CHARACTER OF CASE b7C	INTERNAL SECURITY - X

SYNOPSIS:

Immediately following bombings in Jacksonville, Fla., and Birmingham, Ala., Police Department and newspapers were telephonically contacted and advised that Confederate Underground was responsible for bombings. Confederate Underground, according to informants, is small organization composed of six or eight members whose aim is to curb the integration movement by violence against Jews and Negroes. One informant reported ASA "ACE" CARTER as being head of Confederate Underground, while another informant reported that JESSE B. STONER is the head of the organization, and further, that under STONER's direction bombings have been perpetrated in Jacksonville, Fla., Miami, Fla., Birmingham, Ala., and Nashville, Tenn. STONER and other alleged members of the Confederate Underground have history of membership in anti-Negro and anti-Semitic groups. Other confidential informants familiar with various phases of anti-Negro and anti-Semitic activity in the South could furnish no information regarding the Confederate Underground.

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APPROVED <i>N. R. J. Z.</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACES BELOW	
COPIES MADE: <i>COPIES ON PAGE 1a.</i>		105-70219- 11 SEP 10 1958 11-3	REC-9 EX-135
3 - Atlanta (105-843)			
<i>Bureau (105-70219)</i>			
AGENCY: G-2, OUT, ONE REQ. REC'D: 10/10/58 DATE FORM: 10/10/58 HOW FURN: 2-178 BY: J. R. J.	10-10-58 (info enclosed - 1 page)		
PROPERTY OF FBI.—This report is loaned to you by the FBI, and neither it nor its contents are to be distributed outside the agency to which loaned.			b7C

60 NOV 12 1958

OPO: 1958 O - 454008

AT 105-843

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2 - Jacksonville (RM)
2 - Miami (RM)
2 - Charlotte (RM)
2 - Little Rock (RM) (105-225)
3 - Atlanta (105-843)

AT 105-843

DETAILS:

EVIDENCE INDICATING POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF THE ORGANIZATION

On April 28, 1958, the Jacksonville, Florida, Police Department advised as follows:

At approximately 12:30 a.m. on April 28, 1958, an explosion, believed to have been caused by dynamite, occurred at the rear of the Jacksonville Jewish Center Synagogue, 203 West Third Street, Jacksonville, Florida. At approximately 12:45 a.m., [redacted]

[redacted] received a telephone call from a person who stated "This is the Confederate Underground. We've just blown up the Jacksonville Jewish Center of Integration. Every segregationist must go free. All integration must stop. Furthermore, Jews will not be allowed to live in Florida except in Miami Beach or else they will die."

At this point [redacted] interrupted the caller, asking who it was, and the caller replied "General PONCE DE LEON from the Confederate Underground." The caller then made some reference to too many Negroes working in restaurants and then some reference to Negroes in schools. The caller then hung up.

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At approximately 1 a.m., [redacted] at the "Florida Times-Union", received a telephone call from a person talking in a highly-pitched voice who seemed very nervous. The caller asked if the newspaper knew about the explosion, and, when [redacted] asked what the caller knew about it, the caller began talking very fast, apparently reading a written statement, the high points of which were the same as the telephone call received by [redacted] except [redacted] recalled that the caller stated they were ready to kill every Negro who voted.

[redacted] interrupted the caller to ask if he had Klan connections, and the caller stated "We are all over the South. We have connections everywhere. We are in touch with every

AT 105-843

group fighting for segregation." The caller said the bombings would continue until segregation was firmly established and related further that a Negro school had also been bombed.

At approximately 1:25 a.m. [redacted]

[redacted] section of Jacksonville, received an anonymous telephone call in which the caller stated "This is the Confederate Center of Information. We have just blown up your Jewish Center. All integration in the South must stop."

Confidential informant, Atlanta [redacted] advised that he learned in early [redacted] that Reverend JAMES COLE of Marion, South Carolina, leader of a Klan organization, made a statement that the [redacted]

Atlanta [redacted] further advised that [redacted] made the statement that the Confederate Underground is made up of organizations who are really out to fight integration and that these are the organizations with power behind them.

Confidential informant, Atlanta [redacted] made a concerted effort to determine whether the above meeting was actually held, however, he obtained no information concerning it.

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On [redacted] confidential informant, Atlanta [redacted] advised that during the past week, exact day unrecalled, he was contacted at his home [redacted] by another resident of [redacted] [redacted] He advised that this person inquired as to whether or not he would be interested in joining the Confederate Underground. Atlanta [redacted] stated that this person advised him [redacted]

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Atlanta [redacted] advised that this person explained to him

Atlanta [redacted] stated he was advised that the organization has no charter, no membership cards but does have a uniform consisting of a robe, knee-length boots, and a sword. He was advised his initiation fee would be \$10 and his uniform would cost \$72. The uniform was to be obtained through ASA "ACE" CARTER, of Birmingham, Alabama, who is the head of the Confederate Underground.

Chief JAMIE MOORE, of the Birmingham Police Department, advised on June 29, 1958, that the Birmingham Police Department had received a telephone call at 1:31 a.m. on June 29, 1958, from Reverend F. L. SHUTTLESWORTH, advising that Bethel Baptist Church had been bombed. Chief MOORE stated that at 1:48 a.m. the Birmingham Police Department received a telephone call from a person who identified himself as General FORREST of the Confederate Underground. This person advised the switchboard operator at the Birmingham Police Department that "We have just bombed the center of Communist integration in the South. This is the first of two bombings to take place in Birmingham and within the next hour or hours." MOORE stated the switchboard operator could not recall the rest of the conversation.

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OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP

Confidential informant, Atlanta [redacted] a Southern municipal police department, reported on [redacted] that JESSE B. STONER is the head of the Confederate Underground or Confederate Union, which is a closely woven organization with six or eight members, all of whom are sworn to do bodily harm to any jurors or judges who might bring to trial any member involved in bombings for which the Confederate Underground is responsible.

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Atlanta [redacted] advised that J. B. STONER formerly lived in Chattanooga, Tennessee, where he published an anti-Semitic newspaper. Atlanta [redacted] further advised that STONER is a law school graduate and is presently employed by the State Farm Mutual Insurance Company in Dublin, Georgia. Atlanta [redacted] further advised that STONER maintains [redacted] in Atlanta, Georgia.

Atlanta [redacted] reported that in his opinion members of the Confederate Underground all of whom are associates of J. B. STONER, are [redacted]

Atlanta [redacted] further advised that J. B. STONER may have contacted a man whose last name is [redacted] Alabama. Informant could not identify [redacted] other than to describe him as anti-Semitic and either a present or former employee of [redacted] in Birmingham, Alabama. Atlanta [redacted] also advised that an employee of a newspaper in Valdosta, Georgia, by the name of [redacted] was also an associate of STONER.

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CONTACTS BETWEEN STONER AND CARTER

On [redacted] confidential informant, Atlanta [redacted]
advised that [redacted]

HEADQUARTERS

Atlanta [redacted] advised on [redacted] that the headquarters of the Confederate Underground is located at the home of [redacted] According to [redacted]
this house is located in [redacted]

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Special Agents of the FBI observed on [redacted]
that [redacted] lives on a tract of land adjoining the home of [redacted]

AT 105-843

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND

Atlanta [redacted] advised on [redacted] that according to J. B. STONER, the aim of the Confederate Underground is to curb the integration movement by violence against Jews and Negroes.

ACTIONS TAKEN TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAM

Atlanta [redacted] advised on [redacted] that he believed J. B. STONER and members of the Confederate Underground were responsible for the bombing of the Jewish Synagogue in Jacksonville, Florida, on April 28, 1958; the bombing of Bethel Baptist Church in Birmingham on June 29, 1958; the bombing of a school and synagogue in Nashville, Tennessee; the bombing of a synagogue in Miami, Florida, and a number of killings which have taken place in Florida and Georgia. Informant was unable to furnish further details.

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MEETINGS

Atlanta [redacted] advised on [redacted] that a meeting of J. B. STONER and others was scheduled for [redacted] at the home of [redacted] Informant was of the opinion that this was a meeting of the Confederate Underground.

RESULTS OF CONTACTS WITH CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANTS

Confidential Informants, Atlanta [redacted] all of whom are familiar with certain phases of anti-Negro and anti-Semitic activity in the South, advised on [redacted] that they had no information regarding the Confederate Underground. These same informants were recontacted during the period [redacted] to [redacted] at which time they advised that they had learned nothing of the Confederate Underground.

On [redacted] Atlanta [redacted] advised that he was present at a convention held by the National States' Rights Party in Louisville, Kentucky, on August 30 and 31, 1958. Informant reported that he engaged in conversation at this convention with

AT 105-843

a high official of the National States' Rights Party. During this conversation, informant, through guarded questioning, learned that the high official had no knowledge of the existence of a Confederate Underground, although he expressed the opinion that it was a good idea.

Atlanta [redacted] described the National States' Rights Party as being composed of several groups, all of whom are anti-Semitic and anti-integration.

[redacted] contacted on August 14, 1958, Atlanta [redacted] [redacted] contacted on August 7, 1958, Atlanta [redacted] contacted on August 7, [redacted] and Atlanta [redacted] contacted on August 6, 1958 all advised they could furnish no information regarding the Confederate Underground.

CHARACTERIZATION OF ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

On September 1, 1955, Atlanta [redacted] advised that JESSE B. STONER was the arch leader of the Christian Anti-Jewish Party.

Atlanta [redacted] advised that the Christian Anti-Jewish Party was formed in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1945 by J. B. STONER, a former member of the Associated Klans of America, who was expelled for his activities in behalf of the Christian Anti-Jewish Party. Atlanta [redacted] further identified the Christian Anti-Jewish Party as being anti-Negro, anti-Jewish, and a proponent of supremacy of the White race.

b2
b7C
b7D

Atlanta [redacted] and Atlanta [redacted] have advised that they know of no recent activity of the Christian Anti-Jewish Party and the organization, for all practical purposes, is defunct.

Confidential informant, Atlanta [redacted] advised on [redacted] were leaders in the Christian Anti-Jewish Party.

Confidential informant Atlanta [redacted] advised on May [redacted] of the Columbians and [redacted] were members of this organization.

The Columbians has been designated by the Attorney General of the United States pursuant to Executive Order 10450.

AT 105-843

Atlanta [redacted] has advised that ASA E. CARTER was largely responsible for the forming of an organization in Birmingham, Alabama, known as Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of the Confederacy in 1956. At the initial meeting which organized this group, CARTER stated that it was time to organize a group based upon the original Klan formed by NATHAN BEDFORD FORREST after the Civil War. CARTER said the purpose of this organization was to maintain segregation and that it would not attempt to correct personal situations, such as domestic difficulties. Atlanta [redacted]

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b7C
b7D

- P -

- 8 -

F B I

Date: 10/31/58

Transmit the following in _____

AIRTEL
(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____

AIRMAIL
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (105-70219)
 FROM: SAC, MIAMI (105-1544)
 CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND
 IS - X

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/5/01 BY SP2 ALM/H

ReBuairtel to Atlanta 10/24/58.

The source of the material reported herein was secured from a review of Miami files, investigation, and interviews with HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON.

Bureau authority is requested to interview HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON and to initiate a mail cover at CHILDSON's residence. The mail cover, if authorized, will be placed with [redacted] Post Office Department, Tampa, Florida, who covers St. Petersburg, Fla.

As the Bureau will note, after a review of this communication, CHILDSON has been interviewed five times by Agents of the FBI. He professed cooperation each time, but has never really furnished any information not already known by the Bureau. He steadfastly, so far, refuses to divulge the names of Klansmen known to him. He believes strongly that he cannot violate his Klan oath in this regard. From personal contact with CHILDSON, and a review of the data available concerning him, the conclusion has been reached that he is an

REC-57

3 - Bureau (AMRM)
 1 - Atlanta (105-843) (Info.) (RM)
 4 - Miami
 (1 - 105-1189 OKKK)
 (1 - 100-11349 KKKK)

25 NOV 3 1958

60 NOV 15 1958

Approved: *LOT*

Special Agent in Charge

F B I

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[redacted] insofar as is known.

Normally it could not be expected that another interview with CHILDSON would be more productive than those conducted in the past. However, it is believed that when CHILDSON is confronted with the fact that the Bureau is aware that he claims to be "General GUC", has indiscriminately broadcast this fact, has communicated with various individuals claiming to be the head of the Confederate Underground and requesting that the Confederate Underground be started by these persons in their locale, he will furnish information in his possession concerning the Confederate Underground, however meager it may be. Also, the interview will serve to neutralize CHILDSON's Klan activities and prevent any acts of violence he may be contemplating.

The interview will also enable Miami to secure a recording of CHILDSON's voice, an up to date photograph and specimens of his handwriting and typewriter.

BIRTH DATA

HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON, born [redacted] Springfield, Missouri. Identity of parents unknown. Reared by CHARLIE and BONNIE ALEXANDER, 808 Commercial Street, Springfield, Missouri, who may have adopted him.

CHILDHOOD

CHILDSON [redacted] Springfield, Missouri, date unknown, when [redacted] family no longer desired him, date unknown. He was then

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Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
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named [redacted] Farm located near Springfield remained there about two years. At about age [redacted] CHILDSON proceeded to Las Lunas, New Mexico, where remained for seven or eight months. Returned to West Plains, Missouri, in 1937 or 1938.

EDUCATION

CHILDSON has an 8th grade education.

MARITAL STATUS

CHILDSON married [redacted] nee [redacted] on June 19, 1944, and at that time resided at 410 Garred St., Harlan, Kentucky.

RESIDENCE

CHILDSON resides at 333 43rd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Florida, with his wife, [redacted] and five children. The house is rented. The telephone number at the residence is 5-7710, and is listed under Triangle Construction Co., his business.

FORMER RESIDENCES

1915 - 1930	Springfield, Missouri
1930	Las Lunas, New Mexico; Yucca, Arizona
1937 or 1938	West Plains, Missouri
1939 - 1942	Illinois State Prison, Pontiac, Ill.
1942	California, Arizona, Nevada

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1944	General Delivery, Bledsoe, Ky.
	410 Garred Street, Harlan, Ky.
1945	315 E. Third St., Covington, Ky.
1946	Coalgood, Ky.
1947	Covington, Ky.
1950	Cincinnati, Ohio
1952	315 Western Avenue, Covington, Ky.
1952 - 8/57	St. Petersburg, Fla.
9/57 - 10/57	2513 Croyden Drive, Knoxville, Tenn.
10/57 - present	St. Petersburg, Fla.

PRESENT EMPLOYMENT

CHILDSON presently self employed as a contractor under name of Triangle Construction Co., 333 43rd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Fla. He is principally engaged in home repair type of construction and house leveling.

PAST EMPLOYMENTS

1930 (approximately)	Beer joint and farm, Las Lunas, New Mexico
1930s	Boronia or Boreianna Mining Co., Yucca, Arizona.
1942	Boriana Mines, Yucca, Arizona, as a crammer. Mine employee, Tim Piate, Nevada.
	Boriana Mines, Yucca, Arizona, as stinger and driller.
	Mine employee, Cocowief, California, shot powder.
	W. A. Bechtel Co., Marin Shipbuilding Division, Sausalito, California, Chipper Helper.

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1946	Mary Helen Mine, Coalgood, Kentucky, relief powderman
1947	Woods Mine, Everetta (Evarts), Ky., powder crew. Cloverderby Mining Co., Cloverderby (Clover Bottom?), Kentucky, power crew.
1952	Cloversplint Mine, Cloversplint, Ky., shot powder. Hal's Blueprint Service, St. Petersburg, Fla.

CREDIT RECORD

Records of Credit Bureau of St. Petersburg
Fla., reveal that CHILDSON is definitely
for credit.

BANK RECORDS

A review of the records of the banks in St. Petersburg, Florida, failed to reveal that CHILDSON has an account or safe deposit box.

TELEPHONE RECORDS

The records of the General Telephone Company, St. Petersburg, fail to reveal that during the period May 5, 1958, to October 10, 1958, CHILDSON made any interstate long distance telephone calls from his number 5-7710.

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Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
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Date:

Transmit the following in _____
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MM 105-1544

CHILDSON

ARREST RECORD

CHILDSON has [redacted]. He was arrested by the Police Department, Centralia, Illinois, on 3/31/39, and charged with attempt to rob. CHILDSON was armed with .38 caliber revolver during robbery attempt. Sentenced to 1 - 14 years, and confined at Illinois State Penitentiary, Pontiac, Illinois. Paroled in 1942. In 1938, he was arrested by Police Department, Needles, California, and charged with theft. Disposition unknown, but probably turned over to Sheriff's Office, San Bernardino, under charge of P.T., disposition, "Certified of Juvenile 8/24/38 (Calif Youth Authority)". Arrested by Police Department, Fort Worth, Texas, 9/11/38, for investigation, and released same date. All arrests under name of [redacted]

SERVICE RECORD - U. S. NAVY

HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON enlisted in the U. S. Navy on 12/3/42. He served in the Naval Reserve, inactive status, from 12/3/42, to 1/5/43. He entered on active duty on 1/6/43, at San Francisco, California. [redacted] as Apprentice Seaman. Great Lakes.

III., by reason [redacted] discharge became effective after CHILDSON admitted he was a parole violator from State of Illinois, and that he had failed to admit this at time of enlistment in Navy.

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Date:

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MM 105-1544

INTERVIEWS WITH HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON

On 10/5/56, CHILDSON voluntarily appeared at the St. Petersburg, Fla. Resident Agency, and was interviewed by SA [redacted] (Since retired).

CHILDSON stated he is the head of the organization that was responsible for the leaflet that was printed in the "St. Petersburg Times", 7/30/56. The leaflet requested persons interested in the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan to write Box 708, Pinellas Park, Fla. The leaflet also stated, "Join the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan".

CHILDSON stated Box 708 is in his name. He said he is a "member of the organization and believes in it". He said he is trying to organize this Klan, which is now in a very small state, and "just fighting to get enough together to organize".

He declined to furnish the name of his Klan, but did state it is not the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, though that was the name used in the leaflets printed in the "St. Petersburg Times".

He said his group was in no way associated with BILL HENDRIX (Head, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, aka.) and that HENDRIX is "washed up".

CHILDSON declined to furnish the names of any of his associates. He said he resigned from the "Edwards Klan" of Atlanta about five months ago.

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On 12/31/56, CHILDSON invited SAs [redacted] [redacted] (since retired) and [redacted] to contact him at his home. He was so contacted on 12/31/56, and advised that he had organized a Klan (Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Pinellas Park, Fla), the name of which he declined to divulge. He said his Klan is not a part of the Georgia Klan, Florida Klan or Edwards Klan. He would not advise what Klan group, if any, his Klan is associated with.

He said the purpose of his Klan is to fight Communism. He is the head of the Klan and Grand Dragon of the State of Florida. He declined to furnish the names of any of the members. The most members present at any meeting was eight. There are no dues paying members.

He said he is resigning as Grand Dragon of the State of Florida, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and as a member, 1/11/57, because the Klan is not the answer to the problems facing the South. He could not, or would not, state what, in his opinion, were the problems facing the South.

He said his Klan would either fold up or come out into the open. He thinks it will fold up because it has no leadership, no organization and few members.

On 10/13/58, CHILDSON was interviewed by SAs [redacted] at his residence. He was cordial and tried to leave the impression he was glad to cooperate with the FBI.

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Date:

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(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

MM 105-1544

He was interviewed to ascertain his whereabouts on 10/12/58, the date of the bombing of the Jewish Temple in Atlanta, Ga. CHILDSION advised he was not in Atlanta on 10/12/58, and that he possesses no information concerning the bombing.

He denied knowledge of the existence of the Confederate Underground. He said that in his opinion no such organization exists. He said that the name Confederate Underground sounds good and is newsworthy. The fact that the name Confederate Underground was linked with one of the first bombings and as a result received such great publicity has caused the participants in the later bombings to also use the name, and thus guarantee their efforts great notoriety. He does not think any of the bombings are related, but are isolated instances. He said that a Floridian, for example, who wanted to bomb a school or a synagogue would not have to leave the State to do the job as there are schools and synagogues in Florida. To do so, in his opinion, would be foolish and could lead to his apprehension because he would in all probability have to take someone into his confidence at the site of the bombing.

CHILDSION said he did not approve of, or condone, the bombings, and said that the "Jews" themselves could be doing the bombings to collect insurance and bring sympathy to themselves.

On 10/16/58, CHILDSION was interviewed by SAs _____ at his residence _____ to determine if he was involved in, or aware of, the identity of the persons responsible for the bombing of the Hattie R. Cotton School bombing, Nashville, Tennessee, on 9/10/57.

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CHILDSION said he possesses no information concerning the bombing except what he learned from the press. He denied being implicated in the bombing and does not know who did the bombing. He said he was in Knoxville, Tennessee, or Bledsoe, Kentucky, on September 10, 1957, and was residing at the time at 2513 Croyden Drive, Knoxville, Tenn.

He said he saw some Klansmen while in Knoxville. He claimed to be a powderman prior to his entry into the U. S. Navy in 1943. Said had excellent proficiency as a powderman, and knew he was suspect in the bombings because of occupation as a powderman and Ku Klux Klan membership.

CHILDSION said he tried to form the Confederate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, but never had over seven members. Said organization now defunct because of lack of interest and support. He again denied knowledge of the existence of the Confederate Underground. He denied knowledge of any bombings and participation in any bombings. He said he was opposed to bombings.

He said he had stated before, and would again state, he would not divulge the names of Klansmen known to him.

On 10/17/58, CHILDSION was interviewed by SAs _____ at the Resident Agency, St. Petersburg, after he voluntarily appeared there.

CHILDSION again denied personal knowledge of the bombing of the Hattie R. Cotton School and implication therein. He denied putting on a demonstration concerning

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(Priority or Method of Mailing)

MM 105-1544

the use of dynamite. It is to be noted that on 9/29/57,
CHILDSION reportedly demonstrated the use of dynamite to

[redacted] This occurred subsequent to the bombing of the
Hattie R. Cotton School.

He said he met with a Klan group in Knoxville
in September, 1957, but "broke up" this group because they
were not doing anything, and did not know what they
wanted to do. He declined to say with what Klan organiza-
tion this Klan was affiliated before he "broke" it up.
He did say the Klan had splintered off from another Klan
that might have originally been Edwards Klan. He would
not elaborate upon what authority he had to "break up" a
Klan in Tennessee or elsewhere.

CHILDSION said that after he returned to St.
Petersburg in October, 1957, he attempted to form the
Confederate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (CKKK) and sent
"honorary" membership cards in this Klan to some of the
men he had met in Knoxville. He declined to furnish
their names. He said only four members of the CKKK were
administered the oath, and that no meetings were held,
no dues collected, no public speakings held and that the
organization never really got started. He did give out
10 or 12 "honorary" membership cards in CKKK. The aim
of the CKKK is to fight Communism, and the integration
issue is secondary and only of importance because persons
agitating for integration are Communists.

When asked what Klansmen discussed when they
were together, CHILDSION stated they "harped" on things
they did not like such as integration and front organiza-
tions being operated by the Communists. He said the average

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MM 105-1544

Klansman is "plain stupid" and ignorant, but they fear the Communists and are "anti-Jewish Communists". He said the "Jews" in Hollywood are Communists who have changed their names so the public will not know they are "Jews". He said he did not dislike all "Jews" just as he does not dislike all Negroes, but that you have to take each on an individual basis.

CHILDSON's brother-in-law, [redacted] Bledsoe, Kentucky, spent two weeks with him and Mrs. CHILDSON at 2513 Croyden Drive, Knoxville, Tenn., after they moved into their residence on 9/4 or 5/57. Further, all the family spent the first three weekends in Bledsoe, Ky., at the home of [redacted], head of [redacted] Creek, Mrs. CHILDSON's parents. This would put [redacted] in CHILDSON's residence on the day of Hattie R. Cotton School bombing.

CHILDSON revealed that he has never been actually employed as a powderman. He advised on 10/16/58, that he had been so employed, and had an excellent proficiency therein. He explained that he had acted as a powderman in relief and, of course, had "shot" powder, and plenty of it. Said he had acted as a "crammer", stinger operator (air hammer), and driller in mines in Arizona, California and Kentucky. He said he had no demolition experience while in the Navy. All in all he claimed to have worked about 18 months where dynamite being used and helped detonate dynamite. Claims last used dynamite at Clover Splint Mine in Kentucky.

AFFILIATION WITH KLAN ORGANIZATIONSKNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, aka. (Head, BILL HENDRIX)

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Date:

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MM 105-1544

CHILDSON is a member of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, aka. He is a close friend and confidant of BILL HENDRIX.

KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, PINELLAS PARK, FLORIDA

CHILDSON, by his own admission, formed a Klan group in St. Petersburg, Fla., prior to 7/56. He resigned from this Klan and as Grand Dragon of the State of Florida on 1/11/57. This Klan was formed to fight Communism.

CONFEDERATE KNIGHTS OF THE KU KLUX KLAN, aka., Confederate Underground (CKKKK)

CHILDSON, by his own admission, attempted to form the Confederate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, subsequent to 10/57. The aim of this Klan group was to fight Communism. The integration issue is secondary and only of importance because persons agitating for integration are Communists. This Klan, according to CHILDSON, never had over seven members, four of which were given the Klan oath. He said he considers it defunct because of lack of interest and support.

[redacted] has advised that BILL HENDRIX has stated that CHILDSON has only a handful of young men 18 to 19 years of age in his Klan (CKKKK).

[redacted] reported that CHILDSON, on 9/10/58, said in presence of [redacted] that he formed the CKKKK because all the talk other Klan groups are doing does not mean a thing compared to action, and that his group is committed to action. He also stated that his Confederate

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Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
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F B I

Date:

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MM 105-1544

Underground (CU) is even bigger than the Confederate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. He said he is head of the Confederate Underground, and has organizations in thirty states.

[redacted] believes CHILDSON's statement re CU is gross exaggeration, and probably wishful thinking on CHILDSON's part, as HENDRIX has previously reported CHILDSON's organization is composed of a handful of young men.

CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND (Reported Heads, HARLEY HANSON CHILDSON, JESSE B. STONER and ASA "ACE" CARTER)

[redacted] reported that on [redacted] BILL HENDRIX, H. H. CHILDERS (CHILDSON) and another man were talking in [redacted] Louisville, Ky.

CHILDSON made the statement that [redacted]

CHILDSON said he is not doing any bombings or violence now, but said he and others are still making phone calls under the name of the Confederate Underground, to scare "Jews".

[redacted] received an envelope addressed to him, postmarked St. Petersburg, Fla., 9/10/58, that contained a sheet of paper, typewritten copy, setting out organizational set-up of the "UG". Just to the right of the "Headquarters CUG" at the bottom is the impression of a seal.

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Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
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MM 105-1544

[redacted] also received an envelope postmarked St. Petersburg, Fla. [redacted] bearing return address of 333 43rd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Fla., that enclosed a letter on letterhead of "Confederate Underground, Headquarters Command", dated [redacted] signed "General GUC". Also enclosed was a copy of "Form 5554 Oath of CUG".

[redacted] received an envelope postmarked St. Petersburg, Fla., [redacted] with return address H. H. CHILDSON, 333 43rd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, Fla., that enclosed one typewritten copy headed "Confederate Underground", and one typewritten carbon copy of instructions beginning [redacted]

A potential security informant of the Miami Division, [redacted] (Protect identity) received a letter from CHILDSON dated [redacted] that enclosed the "Oath of CUG", a document setting forth the chain of command of the Confederate Underground, which informed the informant, [redacted]

The letter is on the stationery of the Confederate Underground and signed "Your's for Freedom, General GUC". The letter instructed that, [redacted]

[redacted]
[redacted] (protect), [redacted] of the Indianapolis Office furnished the following material which was sent to [redacted] by CHILDSON on 9/19/58. [redacted] said [redacted] gave this material to him.

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F B I

Date:

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MM 105-1544

Letter to [redacted] from CHILDSON requesting [redacted]

Enclosure to letter showing ranks of members of Confederate Underground ([redacted] advised that this is probably what this enclosure signifies). It is to be noted that the enclosure is substantially the same as the organizational setup of the "UG" that was received by [redacted] and [redacted] and signed the same way, namely, "Headquarters CUG".

Also enclosed with the letter was a Klan application of the Confederate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, and an honorary membership card of the CKKK showing [redacted] State of Indiana, [redacted] race or card.

A review of the above material clearly reveals that the first time CHILDSON is known to have mentioned the Confederate Underground was in conversation with BILL HENDRIX at Louisville, Ky., or [redacted] when [redacted] was present. Insofar as is known to Miami, this is the first time CHILDSON ever mentioned the Confederate Underground or indicated any knowledge of, or affiliation with it.

Investigation by Miami has not revealed that CHILDSON is connected in any way with ASA "ACE" CARTER or JESSE B. STONER, whom informants have identified as being head of the Confederate Underground.

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Miami is of the opinion that CHILDSION has seized upon the name Confederate Underground, realizing its newsworthy potential as a result of the publicity received by the organization in the recent bombings. It is known that he attempted to form a Klan group, the Confederate Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which, according to him, was a failure, and it follows that to bolster his position he could have seized upon the name Confederate Underground in an attempt to capitalize upon the publicity that organization has received.

The Bureau's attention is also directed to the fact that investigation by Atlanta, office of origin, in the case entitled, "CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND, aka., Confederate Union, Confederate Center of Information, IS - X", has revealed that the Confederate Underground is reportedly a small organization composed of six or eight members whose aim is to curb the integration movement by violence against Jews and Negroes. It would appear that the members would consider the organization to be highly secret in view of its announced aim.

It just does not appear logical or feasible that CHILDSION, if he were actually in the Confederate Underground, would incriminate himself and possibly expose the organization by sending out literature indiscriminately, purportedly from the Confederate Underground, as he did to the three individuals mentioned above. Note that insofar as is known to Miami, the only contact [redacted] ever had with CHILDSION was a brief one on [redacted]. [redacted] has had limited contact with CHILDSION. [redacted]

CHILDSION met [redacted]

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It is interesting to note that [redacted] a subject in the bombing of the Jewish Temple at Atlanta, Ga., on 10/12/58, was present at the National Convention of the NSRP, and insofar as is known to Miami, [redacted] made no mention of the Confederate Underground.

CHILDSON is a known [redacted] and has been characterized by his close friend and confidant, BILL HENDRIX, as [redacted]

IMPLICATION IN BOMBINGS

Investigation has failed to reveal that CHILDSON is implicated in any bombings.

CHILDSON has stated that he has nothing but public knowledge concerning the bombings, and is not implicated in the bombings.

CHILDSON's fingerprints were compared with the fingerprints recovered in the attempted bombing of Temple Beth-El, Birmingham, Ala., and the conclusion reached that his fingerprints are not identical with the fingerprints recovered.

NEIGHBORHOOD SOURCE

[redacted] St. Petersburg, Fla., has been developed as a neighborhood source.

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Date:

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_____ observes CHILDSOON daily and records his activities.

She observed CHILDSOON's eldest son under CHILDSOON's supervision, burn material taken from what appeared to be envelopes on 10/18/58, in the CHILDSOON back yard.

The neighbor to the east of CHILDSOON is deaf. The neighbor to the west of CHILDSOON has been noted by _____ to have engaged in conversation with CHILDSOON, and the extent of their relationship is unknown.

CHILDSOON's neighborhood for the most part is made up of elderly, retired and semi-retired people who, for the most part, keep to themselves.

MISCELLANEOUS

While in CHILDSOON's residence on 10/13/58, Agents observed that the house was sparsely furnished, and what furniture was observed therein was in a shabby, dilapidated and unrepainted condition. The floor was dirty, as were the windows and front door.

CHILDSOON indicated that he had received very little work since he returned to Florida, and was having a hard time feeding his family. He said he would not work for anyone else, even though he could probably secure a job, because he knew he would not get fair wages. He would rather "wait for something to show up" than get a steady job. His truck is in need of repair, and he has no money to have it repaired. He is in arrears in his rent. He does not have enough money to secure his

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Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
Special Agent in Charge

F B I

Date:

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via _____
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

MM 105-1544

contractor's license. BILL HENDRIX has assisted him in his financial crisis. He sold all, or most of, his tools when in Tennessee in September, 1957, and has been unable to make enough money to buy ones needed to do his work. If things don't pick up, he may leave Florida. He blames the lack of work for "natives" on new contractors that have recently begun to operate in St. Petersburg who are "Jews".

-20-

Approved: _____ Sent: _____ M Per: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Ku Klux Klan spotlighted in bombing trial

BY ELLISON SMITH
News staff writer

The Ku Klux Klan and the "Confederate Under-ground" command the spotlight today in the bombing trial of Herbert Eugene Wilcutt, charged with exploding dynamite in the Fountain Heights area.

The state rested its case after reading a six-page statement which Wilcutt is alleged to have made in connection with the bombing of a Negro home in the 1100 block of 12th-av. n.

WILCUTT ALSO faces trial on two other bombing charges in connection with dynamite blasts which shook Eupatian Heights July 17.

Wilcutt had in his statement to detectives stating that he had placed the bomb on the porch of the house at 1104 12th-av. n., which was ripped with dynamite. He later repudiated that statement but in the second statement admitted that he was a member of a Ku Klux Klan Klavern located in East Birmingham on 10th-av. near 42nd-st.

Wilcutt said in the statement that he held the office of "klad" in the klavern.

Defense Atty. George Rogers objected strenuously to admission of the statement but was overruled by Circuit Judge Wallace Gibson.

IN THE STATEMENT Wilcutt said two men, charged with him
Turn to Page 12, Column 4

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9/1/01 BY SP2AUMW

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS
Birmingham, Alabama
12/4/58
Front Page
Red Star Final

76
NOT RECORDED
133 L

Trial

Continued from Page 1
in the bombing, also were Klan members.

Ellis Lee and Crawford Neal face charges of attempted bombing in connection with the Fountain Heights incident.

Wilcutt refused to identify the head of the Klan and said that he did not know other people, including a former city employee, when he was asked who were his brethren in the Klan.

In further questioning, Wilcutt was asked if he was a member of the Confederate Underground, another secret organization.

He replied, "That's one bunch I don't believe in. It's not in existence any more. That's Asa Carter's bunch."

IN THE STATEMENT, Wilcutt denied that he had anything to do with the bombing attack he is charged with leading and said he did not know if the group that had bombed the house was affiliated with his Klan.

Wilcutt testified in Circuit Court this afternoon that he had nothing to do with the Fountain Heights bombing of a Negro house.

TAKING THE witness stand in his own behalf, he followed a defense "surprise" witness who testified that Wilcutt had been with him at a drive-in restaurant at the time of the bombing.

Carver Putnam testified that he had spent the time between 9:45 p.m. and 10:10 p.m. at the King's Drive-In with the defendant.

All testimony thus far has been to the effect that the bombing took place at 10 p.m.

PUTNAM SAID that Wilcutt was still at the drive-in when he left.

On cross-examination, he said that he was noting the time he was with Wilcutt from his memory of other events during the evening. He added that he didn't actually look at a clock when he was with Wilcutt.

Detective Vernon T. Hart testified earlier today that he had done much of the early questioning of Wilcutt, at which time the defendant admitted going to the scene of the bombing and placing the dynamite.

He said Wilcutt after being driven to the scene the next day by police officers made his denial and stated that he had told the earlier story in an attempt to shield his companions.

Defense Atty. Rogers slipped into the detective attempting to establish that he had obtained a warrant against Wilcutt only because of the insistence of superior officers.

Rogers said the detective had told his superiors that Wilcutt could not have been implicated in the bombing. Hart denied making the statement.

WILCUTT COULD get from 10 years in prison up to the death sentence if he is convicted of the offense, but indications are that capital punishment will not be asked when the jury is sent out to render a verdict.

After the bombing incident it was reported Negroes living in the area had attacked the other defendants and beaten them up.

LINDSEY SAID Wilcutt, in his statement, told how he had wrapped dynamite sticks together, picked companions for a bombing sortie and selected the sights to rough up a front porch."

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO: Director, FBI (105-70219)

DATE: Dec. 16, 1958

FROM: SAC, Denver (105-726)

SUBJECT: CONFEDERATE UNDERGROUND
IS - X
(Atlanta OO)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4/12/01 BY SP2 AMW

Re Little Rock airtel to Bureau dated 11/21/58.

A review of the files in the Denver Office revealed the following pertinent information regarding DEWEY M. TAFT:

On September 21, 1941, an article appeared in the "Rocky Mountain News," Denver daily newspaper, reflecting four persons were questioned by police in connection with complaints that they were distributing leaflets attacking the "America First Committee" outside the Denver City Auditorium while PHILIP F. LA FOLLETTE was speaking under sponsorship of the committee. DEWEY MCKINLEY TAFT of 2728 South Broadway, Denver, Colo., who favored the committee, was among those questioned. This article further reflected that TAFT was the publisher of a newspaper in Englewood, Colorado, and was passing copies of this paper out to the audience.

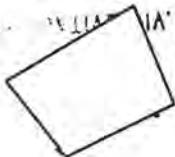
ELIZABETH TAFT

On January 24, 1946, an article appeared in the "Denver Post," daily newspaper, entitled "Denverites Organize Group to Battle Fascist Bureaus," which reflects that a group of Denver residents, under the leadership of DEWEY M. TAFT, former feed dealer of Englewood, filed articles of incorporation with the Secretary of State for the Colorado Committee for Constitutional Rights.

② - Bureau (RM)
1 - Atlanta (105-843) (RM) EX
1 - Miami (105-1544) (Info) (RM) 133
1 - Little Rock (105-225) (Info) (RM)
2 - Denver (1 - 105-201) DEC 55 10 50 WH 29

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66 DEC 30 1958



EX-PROG.

DN 105-726

On February 2, 1950, Chief of Police I. B. BRUCE, Colorado Springs, Colorado, furnished information that one E. R. RICHARDSON had been in Colorado Springs on several occasions sponsoring meetings of an organization known as "Riders of Paul Revere." Chief BRUCE stated that at these meetings RICHARDSON stated there was no free press in the United States; indicated the nation needs a new political party; and that the Negroes in America presently had all the civil rights they deserve. Chief BRUCE further advised he knows of no Communistic connections on the part of RICHARDSON, and that an individual named DEWEY TAFT had attended several of these meetings.

On October 25, 1951, DEWEY M. TAFT, 2728 South Broadway, Englewood, advised the Denver FBI Office that in the October 24, 1951, issue of the "Denver Post," he was falsely accused of tearing down the Russian flag at a United Nations display in Denver. He stated as a result he received two threatening telephone calls. He was referred to the Denver Police Department.

The May 6, 1952, edition of the "Rocky Mountain News" carried an article entitled, "Englewood Man's Trial Starts in Russian Flag-Ripping Case." This article states in part that the trial of DEWEY M. TAFT, 2728 South Broadway, Englewood, commenced October 24, 1952, in connection with his appealing a \$50.00 fine assessed against him in Denver Municipal Court on November 6, 1951, for unlawful assemblage in connection with the ripping of the Russian flag during a United Nations Day observance in Civic Center.

The "Denver Post" daily newspaper on this same date reported that TAFT was found innocent of the charge of unlawful assemblage and he immediately announced he would push a suit against authorities for false arrest and malicious prosecution.

Files of the Denver Office reflect that DEWEY M. TAFT is the former editor of the "American Digest," P. O. Box 62, Englewood.

DN 105-726

The records of the Retail Credit Men's Association, Denver, Colorado, as reviewed in April, 1952, reflect [redacted] was born in the State of Michigan, came to Denver in 1929, and that he formerly lived in Forest Park, Georgia, in 1949. His employment as of 1952 was shown as the "American Digest." At that time he lived at [redacted] and his wife was indicated to be [redacted]

[redacted] (protect identity), advised SA [redacted] on May 13, 1952, that he had known [redacted] for approximately [redacted] years and that in his opinion [redacted] was a loyal American citizen but his vehemence in his dislike for Communists, Democrats, and any person who was not supporting Senator ROBERT TAFT in the 1952 presidential election. [redacted] stated [redacted] is a very politically minded individual and would like to run for some public office and that he takes great delight in embarrassing public officials, pointing out that in his magazine, "American Digest," he has been printing material critical of President EISENHOWER and the United Nations. It was [redacted] opinion that although [redacted] is a rabble rouser, he is not a threat to the security of the United States.

RUC.



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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Investigation

Washington, D. C. 20535

MAY 8 2000

MR ERNIE LAZAR
POST OFFICE BOX 423434
SAN FRANCISCO CA 94142-3434

✓ Subject of Request: Matthew H. Murphy, Jr.

FOIPA NO.: 918998

Dear Requester:

Enclosed are copies of documents from FBI records. Excisions have been made to protect information exempt from disclosure pursuant to Title 5, United States Code, Section 552 (Freedom of Information Act) and/or Section 552a (Privacy Act). In addition, where excisions were made, the appropriate exempting subsections have been cited opposite the deletions. Where pages have been withheld in their entirety, a deleted page information sheet has been substituted showing the reasons or basis for the deletion. The subsections cited for withholding information from the enclosed documents are marked below:

Section 552

- (b)(1)
- (b)(2)
- (b)(3)
- (b)(4)
- (b)(5)
- (b)(6)

Section 552a

- (b)(7)(A)
- (b)(7)(B)
- (b)(7)(C)
- (b)(7)(D)
- (b)(7)(E)
- (b)(7)(F)
- (b)(8)
- (b)(9)

- (d)(5)
- (j)(2)
- (k)(1)
- (k)(2)
- (k)(3)
- (k)(4)
- (k)(5)
- (k)(6)
- (k)(7)

(See Form OPCA-16a, enclosed, for an explanation of these exemptions.)

Pursuant to your request, 52 pre-processed pages are being released.

The documents responsive to your request were previously processed for another requester. In order to provide the information you requested as soon as possible, we have released the FBI information as it was originally processed. We have not contacted other Government agencies concerning their information in FBI files.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to
File No.

1400 - 2121 Building
Birmingham, Alabama 35203
April 1, 1965

RE: MATTHEW HOBSON MURPHY, JR.

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b7D

BACKGROUND

Matthew Hobson Murphy, Jr. is a white male, approximately 6'3", 210 pounds, ruddy complexion, brown (graying) hair, blue eyes and was born August 11, 1913, in Birmingham, Alabama. He is a practicing Attorney at Law in Birmingham, Alabama, and is a member of the Birmingham law firm of Murphy and Reynolds, Frank Nelson Building, Birmingham. His residence is listed as 1447 Ridge Road, Birmingham, Alabama; was married to Mary Ellen Duncan on June 6, 1947, and as of 1963 had three dependent children.

Murphy attended Washington and Lee University in Virginia and obtained an LLB Degree from the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, after which he was admitted to the Alabama Bar in 1948.

[Large sections of the document are heavily redacted with black ink.]

2902-1

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ENCLOSURE

RE: MATTHEW HOBSON MURPHY, JR.

The Birmingham News, a daily newspaper of Birmingham, Alabama, for September 6, 1964, printed an article entitled, "Klan Leader Blasts Courts, U. N., Others". This article stated that Robert Shelton of Tuscaloosa, Imperial Wizard of the UKA, told a Birmingham audience that segregation is but one of the issues supported by his group. Shelton was quoted as saying "segregation is an issue that is important", and further said "constitutional government, defeat of Communism, and overthrow of liberals and anti-Christians are also basic beliefs of this Klan's invisible empire." According to the News, Shelton addressed a banquet of Klansmen and their wives at the Tutwiler Hotel in Birmingham, where more than 500 persons were present, including Grand Dragons and delegates from Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida. The meeting was registered at the hotel as the "Alabama Rescue Service". Shelton was followed by Birmingham attorney "Matt Murphy."

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**NATIONAL STATES RIGHTS PARTY
(NSRP)**

[REDACTED] An article in the November 26, 1957, issue of the "Greenville Piedmont," a newspaper of Greenville, South Carolina, reported "the recent formation of a new political party, to be known as the United White Party." According to the article, the party was formed at a recently held meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee, at which many Klansmen were represented. The UWP was reported as being opposed to all "race mixing organizations and individuals."

The July, 1958, issue of "The Thunderbolt," self-described as the "official Racial Nationalist Organ of the National States Rights Party" (NSRP), reported that rank and file "States Righters" had merged with the UWP under "the banner of the National States Rights Party, with national offices at Post Office Box 261, Jeffersonville, Indiana.

[REDACTED]

Issue No. 19, dated June, 1960, "The Thunderbolt," announced the address of the headquarters of the NSRP had been changed from Jeffersonville, Indiana, to Post Office Box 783, Birmingham, Alabama.

Issue No. 54, dated November, 1963, reflects the mailing address of the NSRP is still Post Office Box 783, Birmingham, Alabama.

[REDACTED]

"The Thunderbolt" continues to publish articles attacking Negroes and persons of the Jewish faith.